OSMP Weeds

Last Updated Thursday, 24 August 2006

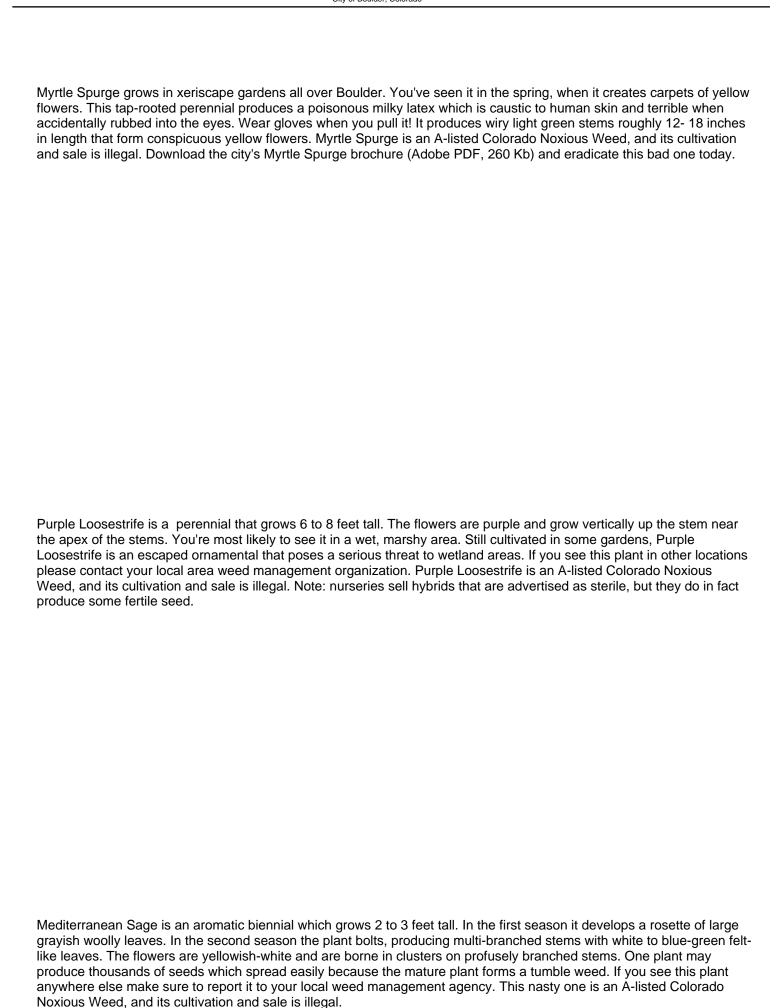
About Open Space & Mountain Parks

Please follow links to these topics

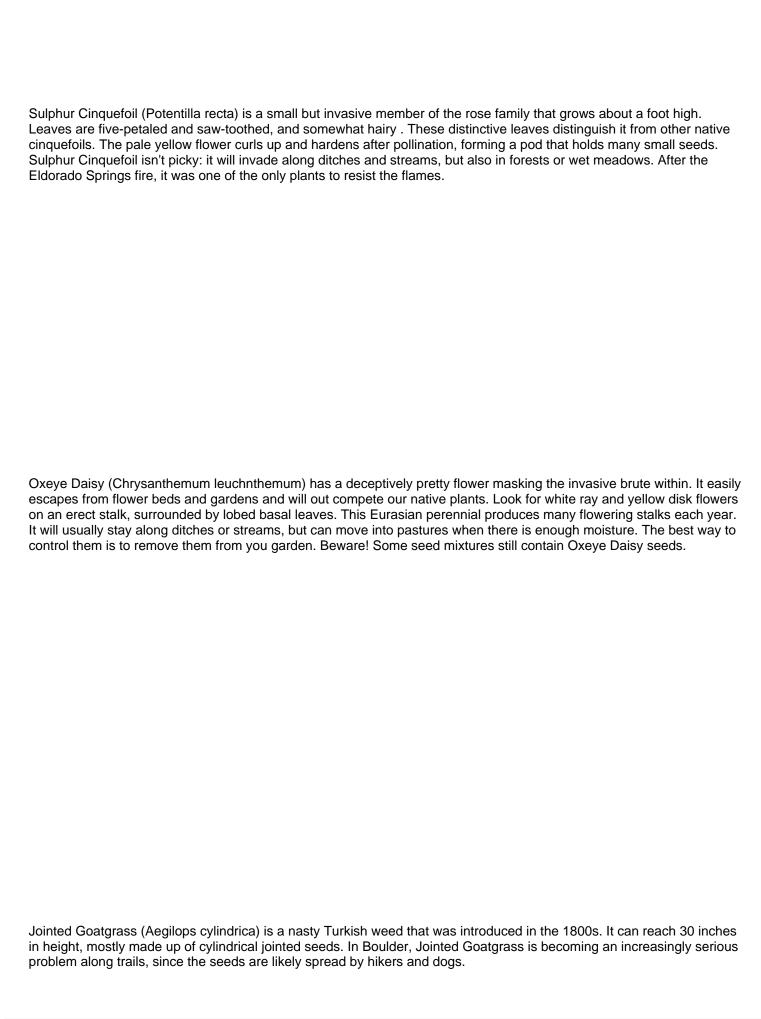
- »Houndstongue
- »Myrtle Spurge
- »Diffuse Knapweed
- »Sulphur Cinquefoil
- »Dame's Rocket
- »Purple Loosestrife
- »Jointed Goatgrass
- »Cheatgrass
- »Oxeye Daisy
- »Russian Olive
- »Scotch Thistle
- »Musk Thistle
- »Mediterranean Sage
- »Tamarisk
- »Dalmatian Toadflax
- »Canada Thistle
- »Perennial Sweetpea
- »Common Teasel
- »Soapwort / Bouncing Bet
- »Bladder Senna

The "A" List

Some of the plants listed below are illegal to grow, cultivate and sell and are mandated for eradication. Follow this link to learn more about the state's A List and Colorado landowners' and gardeners' legal responsibilities. You can help by using native plants in your garden. The first step to eliminating noxious weeds is to know them when you see them. This allows you to eliminate them from your own land and gardens, and to avoid buying them as ornamentals. You may also spot them while hiking on Open Space and Mountain Parks: please report where you find a patch, since it may be new to our records. Once identified, the patch can be eliminated using integrated pest management methods. Remember, the plants pictured below are one of the greatest threats facing Open Space and Mountain Parks ecosystems! Follow this link to learn about the problem and what OSMP is doing.

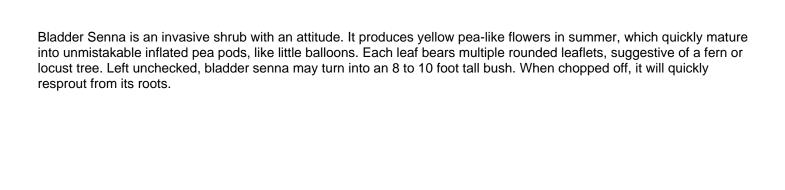


City of Boulder, Colorado
Dame's Rocket: Don't be fooled by this one's lovely lavender flowers, which bloom in late spring. This attractive invader takes over along streams, in canyons and moist hillsides. It grows to about 2 to 3 feet tall. Since it's a biennial, it blooms in its second year and then dies. You may control it by eliminating all flowers and thus preventing the plant from leaving seeds.
Perennial Sweetpea is beautiful but deadly to our native ecology. This vegetative thug sprays its bean-like seeds for great distances, helping it rapidly take over and dominate an area. The large, deep tap root makes it difficult to control. Blooming in mid summer, it is still widely cultivated for its beguiling beauty. It is found in various parts of Open Space and Mountain Parks, most notably in Chautauqua Meadow where the patch grows larger every year.

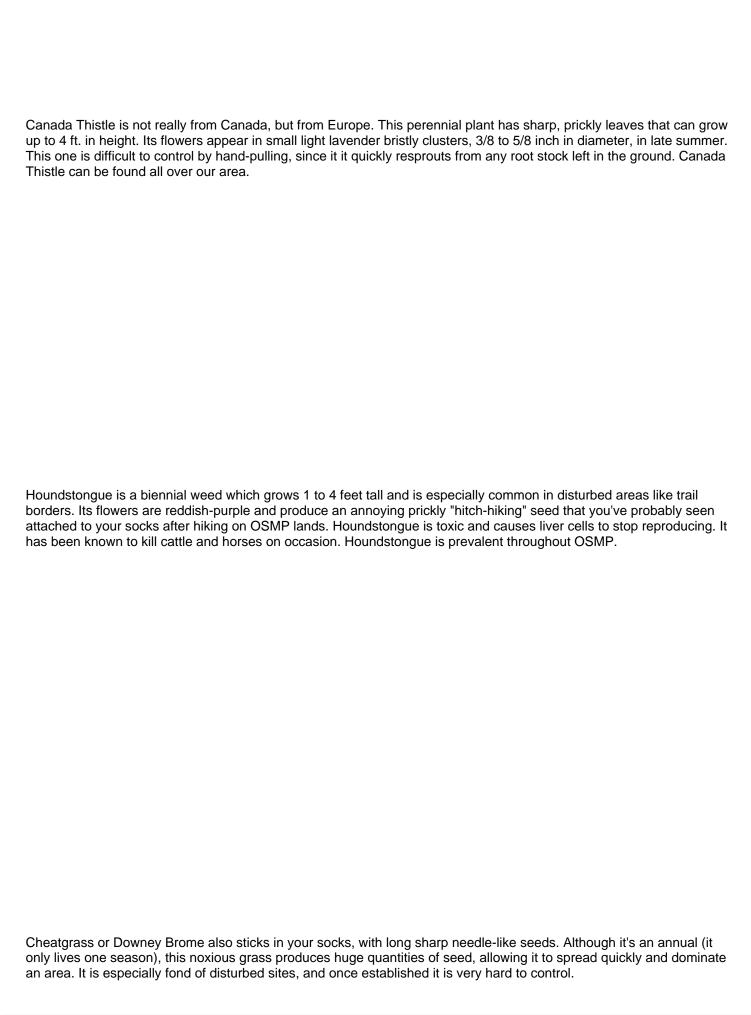


City of Boulder, Colorado
Tamarisk (Tamarix ramosissima) is also known as Saltcedar. Tamarisk was used as an ornamental xeriscape landscaping tree in Boulder for some time. It is now an A-listed species and is illegal to grow or sell. Tamarisk has become a very serious problem in the West because of its effect on water systems. Tamarisk invades an area when the water level is down, then sucks up huge amounts of groundwater. It also releases salt into soil to inhibit competition. Salt cedar thickets narrow streams and choke overflow channels, causing considerable flooding. Capable of re-sprouting easily, and re-rooting from even a small branch fragment, one tree can create a sizeable colony in a few years.





Russian Olive trees were originally planted to promote soil conservation. We now know that Russian olives degrade wildlife habitat and compete with native tree species in riparian areas. While wildlife will eat the fruits, they are low in food value compared to those of other native species. Furthermore, the dense wood does not form hollow cavities, limiting habitat for cavity-nesting birds like flickers, tree swallows, wood ducks and owls. Russian olive trunks and branches are armed with 1 to 2 inch thorns. The leaves are narrow and covered with minute scales which give the foliage it's distinctive silvery appearance. Some nurseries still sell this tree, although we encourage you to purchase a less invasive alternative.



»Fabulous Flora of OSMP

- »Rare and Sensitive Species
- »Prescribed Fires and Forest Management